

# THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY

December 8, 2015

Honorable Steven Levin  
New York City Council  
410 Atlantic Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Dear Steve:

The New York Landmarks Conservancy is opposed to the sale of the Brooklyn Heights/Downtown public library to private developers. The maneuver to sell precious public assets for a one-time financial gain is folly. This is not even a good deal in real estate terms. In terms of public good, it is a horrible deal especially for the local community that values its spacious, well-used library. It is a betrayal of the City's once proud commitment to its libraries.

In my years at the Council, members were quick to protect the library systems from budget cuts and other threats. Branch libraries are important to New Yorkers of all ages and are particularly important resources to newcomers and their children.

The President of the Brooklyn Public Library has stated that this real estate deal is a model for all three library systems in the City. The Conservancy believes it is a model for disaster.

Your vote as the Councilmember representing Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn is of course, crucial. You represent the people who will be most hurt by this patrimony-for-cash scheme. As you have publicly stated, the overwhelming majority of your constituency is opposed to this deal, which will shrink the library and place it on the ground floor of a condo building with no room to expand. It's a bad deal.

The Conservancy is depending on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Peg Breen  
President